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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/409,831 | 09/30/1999 | VINCENT P. FOX | EN999063 | 5935 |

7590 11/21/2002

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EXAMINER

BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/409,831

Applicant(s)

FOX ET AL.

Examiner

Igor Borissov

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama (U. S. 4,851,999) in view of publication "Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment" by Minnesota Departments of Finance and Administration.

As per **claims 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9**, Moriyama discloses general-purpose management system comprising:

- entry means for entering and storage means for storing invoices (personal computer as an input unit for inputting basic data required) (column 3, lines 30-34);
- database tool having goods received receipts and purchase orders (a hard disk storing a database including data files, such as financial and inventory files (column 3, lines 42-51);
- matching tool means coupled to said entry means and said database tool for periodically inquiring said database tool to determine if a new goods received receipt is present, and for performing logical match (the hard disk storing a general-purpose management program and master files, such as commodity master and outside order receiver master) (column 3, lines 40-47);

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- transfer tool for transferring results of the logical three-way match (the hard disk storing a general-purpose management program and master files, such as commodity master and outside order receiver master) (column 3, lines 40-47).

Moriyama does not specifically teach to performing a logical three-way match between each invoices, goods received receipts and purchase orders.

The publication "Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment" by Minnesota Departments of Finance and Administration, which appears to be published on June 29, 1995 (hereafter referred as "Three Way Match Requirement"), teaches the three way match process comprising a logical three-way match between each invoice, one or more goods received receipts, and one or more purchase orders, and wherein said logical three-way match is performed by comparing a GRR number on each said invoice with a GRR number on said one or more GRR, a unit price on said one or more GRR with a unit price on each said invoice, and a quantity on each said invoice with a quantity on said one or more GRR, and wherein an equal comparison of either said GRR number, or said unit price, or said quantity shall constitute said match was found, including generating logical results of said three-way match (See entire reference).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moriyama by adding the three way match process capability because it would increase the efficiency of the system by allowing to process all procurement component payments regardless what was received first: the packing slip or invoice.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama and "Three Way Match Requirement " in view of Call (U. S. 5,913,210).

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As per **claim 2 and 3**,

Moriyama and “Three Way Match Requirement “ teach all the limitations of **claim 2**, except that said entry means comprises means for electronic entry, such as electronic entry via EDI 850.

Call teaches a method and apparatus for disseminating product information via Internet comprising a mechanism for exchanging business documents in standard format between computers, such as Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). For example, EDI 850 purchase order transaction can be implemented (column 12, lines 1-16).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moriyama and “Three Way Match Requirement “ by including means for electronic entry because it would decrease processing time per order and, thereby, decrease cost to operate the system.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriyama and “Three Way Match Requirement “ in view of Remington et al. (U. S. 6,070,150).

As per **claim 4**,

Moriyama and “Three Way Match Requirement “ teach all the limitations of **claim 4**, except that said database tool is SAP.

Remington et al. teach electronic bill presentment and payment system employing SAP as bill analysis and business accounting software (column 13, lines 60-67; column 14, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moriyama and “Three Way Match Requirement “ by adding SAP

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as database tool because it would decrease processing time per order as well as increase the adaptability and reliability of said system.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 09/03/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant stipulates that the three way match recited in claims 1, 6 and 7 is not described in the publication "Three Way Match Requirement for All Procurement Component Payment" by Minnesota Departments of Finance and Administration, and that said publication does not describe at all how the match is performed.

Examiner disagrees. Examiner points out that said publication discloses the logical three way match process, and, specifically, describes in details said three way match process employing comparison of "invoice numbers", "quantity" and "unit prices" indications (See entire publication and discussion above).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Igor Borissov at telephone number (703) 305-4649.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

Supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached at (703) 308- 2702.

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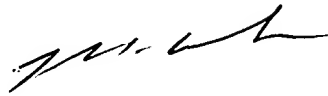
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

*Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231*

or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 [Official communications; including
After Final communications labeled
"Box AF"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


**JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**